

Today's News - Monday, May 10, 2010

- ArcSpace brings us Eliasson & Ma Yansong's colorful, fog-filled show in Beijing.
- There's much to learn from Shanghai besides the city's "sense of spectacle."
- Hawthorne brings lessons home from Medellín and its commitment to "social urbanism," where "young designers, encouraged by forward-thinking leaders" has led to some "exquisitely designed" public buildings (great slide show).
- Moore on Koolhaas's map of "Eneropa": it is "either prophecy or provocation, but whichever way it's worth having" (weekend in "Biomassburg" anyone?).
- Laser mapping NYC will result in a detailed picture of city's physical space to determine where best to install solar power, what neighborhoods are most in need of trees - and a lot more.
- Architects from Alabama come up with winning design for an eco-friendly, inhabited "hill" in Armenia's capital city.
- The first of three reports from the "Good Jobs, Green Jobs" National Conference.
- Iovine elaborates on Venturi, Scott Brown's objections to changes to their Philly masterwork (they "have never been known to go quietly over anything"); there's still time to submit your opinion.
- Goldberger on Cobb's "shadow building" for Goldman Sachs: a "43-story paradox: an understated palazzo" - architecture as a "well-tailored" (and expensive!) suit; too bad all the "daring touches" (by some cool firms) are inside - visitors not welcome.
- Meanwhile, Pei Cobb Freed's NASCAR Hall of Fame "embodies NASCAR itself: a combination of ingenuity, daring and a dash of foolhardy ambition."
- Campbell finds a zone of Zen at a new, very green yoga and health center: a "daring and serious building" that "we need more of, in a culture that's become too often wedded to whatever is banal and familiar."
- FJMT turns the University of Sydney's new law building inside-out.
- LaBarre bristles at those who accuse the "brilliant" Maggie Centre initiative as "exploiting cancer to win architecture awards. It's a distinctly ungenerous read."
- The next generation of health care design might just be found on a "movie set" that generates better ideas than any boardroom meeting could.
- An architect who thinks small aims for an architectural culture that reflects Emirati traditions: "I don't want to build anything taller than a tree."
- Q&A with Roger K. Lewis (one of our faves) re: the importance - and challenges - of being a citizen architect: "We have not entered the public consciousness in the way other professionals have."
- de Botton x 2: Booth on his "Living Architecture" holiday homes designed by starchitects: "an attempt to cure the British public of what he believes is a widely held fear of modernist architecture" (second article has actual images).
- At the end of a longggg saga, Poughkeepsie, NY, opens the Walkway Over the Hudson (the High Line's really big cousin).
- Kent State University names Douglas Steidl dean of College of Architecture and Design.

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Exhibition: "Feelings are facts": Olafur Eliasson & Ma Yansong, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), Beijing, China

Shanghai's sense for spectacle: ...government spent a reported \$55 billion on "regional and city" infrastructure to support the expo and to service the future district...There is much to learn from Shanghai, both the metropolis and its huge world exposition. It's not just the aesthetics, greening or urban design. By Paulo Alcazaren - The Philippine Star

Medellín, Colombia's architectural renaissance: Young designers, encouraged by forward-thinking leaders, have created notable works in some of the city's poorest areas...city's commitment to public architecture...has produced a number of exquisitely designed libraries, schools and parks...has called the approach "social urbanism." By By Christopher Hawthorne -- Alejandro Echeverri; Paisajes Emergentes/Emerging Landscapes; Ctrl G Architects; 51-1 Architects; Giancarlo Mazzanti; Plan B Architects; JPRCR; Javier Vera [slide show] - Los Angeles Times

Roadmap 2050 by Rem Koolhaas's OMA: ...helped come up with a daring plan to run Europe on a grid of shared renewable energy -- and redraw the map of the continent at the same time...of all the abstract speculations about what sustainable futures might look like, there has not previously been one so tangible or engaging...is either prophecy or provocation, but whichever way it's worth having. By Rowan Moore -- Reinier de Graaf; Office of Metropolitan Architecture [slide show] - Observer (UK)

With Lasers and Flyovers, a Solar Map of New York: ...data will be used, among other things, to create up-to-date maps of the areas most prone to flooding, the buildings best suited for the installation of solar power and the neighborhoods most in need of trees. [slide show] - New York Times

City in a hill proposed for Yerevan, Armenia: A team of architects from Alabama have designed an eco-friendly mixed-use project called "Lace Hill"...an eighth hill, with hotel and apartment terraces woven into the "hilltop"...inside the hill, openings and voids allow natural light to flood the interior. -- Forrest Fulton Architecture [image] - Huliq.com

Moving Towards a Green Economy (Part 1): The "Good Jobs, Green Jobs" National Conference...explored the strategies, policies, and investments needed to move towards a clean energy economy. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Haunting Franklin's House: Venturi, Scott Brown question plans to alter their Philly masterwork...have never been known to go quietly over

anything, much less an extensive alteration to one of their most acclaimed projects...the Ghost House [Franklin Court]...public comment period...ends next Friday on May 15..."They need to know there's going to be a big reaction"... By Julie V. Iovine-- Quinn Evans Architects; Casson Mann [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Shadow Building: The house that Goldman Sachs built: ...design speaks less to Goldman's current problems than to the firm's long-standing obsession with being both extremely powerful and utterly inconspicuous...The result is a 43-story paradox: an understated palazzo...new headquarters is architecture as a well-tailored suit...you can tell that a lot of money has been spent. By Paul Goldberger -- Henry Cobb/Pei Cobb Freed; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Office dA; SHoP; Architecture Research Office (ARO); Preston Scott Cohen; Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg (KPMB) - New Yorker

NASCAR Hall of Fame worth the weight: How the complex exhibits that bring racing to life were built, hoisted, pushed and pulled...The story of how the hauler became the first artifact installed is one that embodies NASCAR itself: a combination of ingenuity, daring and a dash of foolhardy ambition. -- Ralph Appelbaum Associates; Pei Cobb Freed - Charlotte Business Journal (North Carolina)

Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health dorm radiates simple sustainability: ...a daring and serious building. It's an experiment in the best sense of that word. This is the kind of architecture we need more of, in a culture that's become too often wedded to whatever is banal and familiar. By Robert Campbell -- Peter Rose + Partners [image]- Boston Globe

Turned Inside-Out: To daylight its new Faculty of Law building, the University of Sydney presumed a central atrium - FJMT suggested a surprising alternative. By David Sokol -- Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp [slide show]- Architectural Record

Starchitecture Helps Heal Cancer Patients: Hospitals are some of the worst buildings around. But plenty of research shows that physical surroundings can improve health. Which is what makes the Maggie's Centre initiative so brilliant...Others accuse the initiative of exploiting cancer to win architecture awards. It's a distinctly ungenerous read. -- Frank Gehry; Zaha Hadid; Richard Rogers; Page and Park; Rem Koolhaas; Edward Cullinan; Kisho Kurokawa [images, links]- Fast Company

Designing the Perfect Health Care Clinic: At Kaiser Permanente's Garfield Center, Hollywood-style sets help planners create a patient-friendly blueprint for the future of health care...a rehearsal ground...to perfect proposed facility designs before they are rolled out to hundreds of hospitals and clinics. -- Angelene Baldi; John Kouletsis - Fast Company

A place to call our own: setting up an architectural culture that reflects Emirati traditions: At the base of the tallest structure ever made, across from the largest fountain in the world and the biggest mall ever built, architect Omran al Owais says "I don't want to build anything taller than a tree." - The National (UAE)

Citizen Architect on the Move: A conversation with Roger K. Lewis, FAIA: "...architects in general are among the few professionals whose work influences the lives of so many people...We have not entered the public consciousness in the way other professionals have." - AIArchitect

Alain de Botton commissions holiday homes to promote modernist architecture: Philosopher announces not-for-profit scheme to rent out five buildings designed by world-class architects...Living Architecture...an attempt to cure the British public of what he believes is a widely held fear of modernist architecture. By Robert Booth -- MVRDV; Nord Architecture; Peter Zumthor; Hopkins Architects - Guardian (UK)

Are these the holiday homes of the future? Alain de Botton to transform UK self-catering with ultra-modern designs...has commissioned five houses by some of Europe's leading modern architects...to rent out on a not-for-profit basis...."to help people get over the dichotomy that modernism equals awful and antiquated equals great" -- MVRDV; Jarmund/Vigsnæs arkitekter/JVA; Nord Architecture; Michael Hopkins; Peter Zumthor [images]- Daily Mail (UK)

Hudson River Walkway, an Improbable Treat: ...one of the least likely environmental and architectural achievements in recent times -- the improbable idea that became the Walkway Over the Hudson, the longest pedestrian bridge in the world. - New York Times

Kent State University names Douglas Steidl dean of College of Architecture and Design -- Braun & Steidl Architects - Crain's Cleveland Business

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